objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development in rural areas. The SGRY is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around the village/habitat.

Rural Housing—Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)—The composite multi pronged strategy for housing has been operationalised w.e.f. 1999-2000. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is the major scheme for construction of houses to be given to the poor, free of cost. It has an additional component, namely, conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses to semi pucca houses.

Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)—SJSRY is a Poverty Alleviation Programme for the urban areas which seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

Widening of Jalandhar-Pathankot Road

325. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of widening the Jalandhar-Pathankot section of the National Highway has been progressing on a very slow speed as a result of which users of the highway have to face immense inconvenience;

(b) if so, when did the work start and the reasons for delay in completing the work; and

(c) the action proposed to expedite the work and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Jalandhar-Pathankot section of National Highways—1A is a part of North-South corridor to be four laned under the National Highways Development Project by December, 2007. Four laning in nearly 22 km of this section had started in August 2001 and is now targeted for completion by March 2004. In the balance length, the work is targeted to be completed by December, 2007. The project is not lagging behind the target of four laning of the entire section, by December, 2007.